

CINEPLEX

MAGAZINE

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

JAY BARUCHEL

OUR VIKING
HERO SNEAKS
CAN-CON INTO
HOW TO TRAIN
YOUR DRAGON:
THE HIDDEN
WORLD

PAGE 40

ROBERT
RODRIGUEZ
GIVES LIFE
TO ALITA

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TAKING
APART
LEGO
MOVIE 2

PAGE 24

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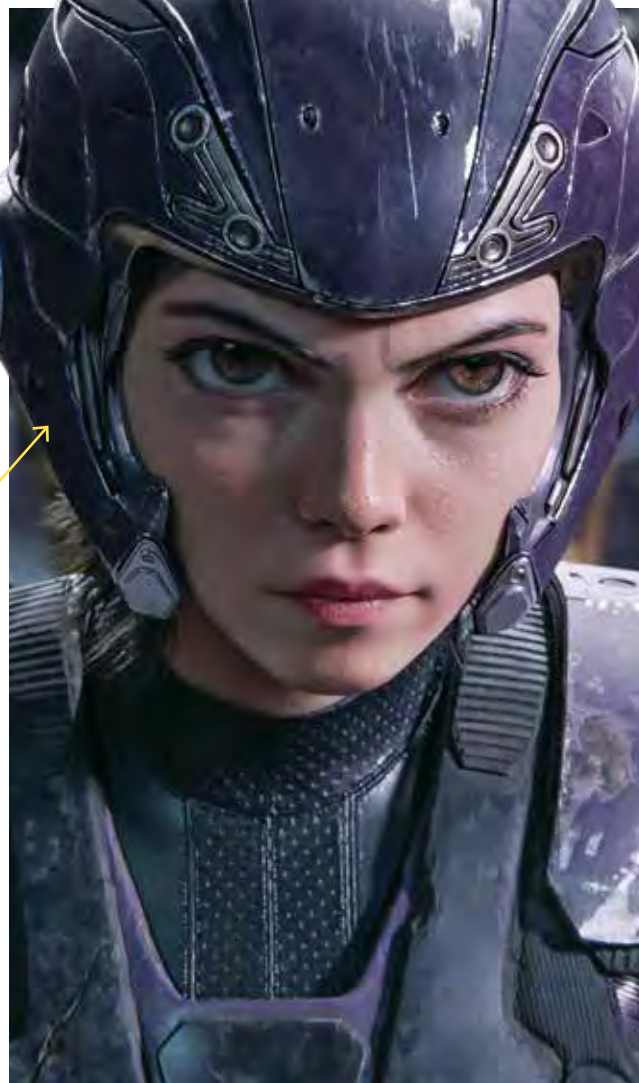
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BY MARNI WEISZ



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How Do We Look at 20?

There are three, yes three, very special things about this issue.

It's the first issue of our 20th anniversary year, it's the first issue of a handsome redesign, and it features one of our favourite Canadians, Jay Baruchel, on the cover, which we thought was the perfect way to kick off this momentous time in the history of Canada's most popular entertainment magazine.

In case you don't remember it quite as clearly as I do, our mag first hit theatres in November 1999 with Johnny Depp and Christina Ricci gracing the cover for Tim Burton's *Sleepy Hollow*. We had a different name back then, *Famous*, since our magazine was only available in Famous Players theatres. When Cineplex bought Famous Players the name changed to reflect our expanding universe.

We'll be celebrating the anniversary all year long by reaching deeeeeep into our archives and pulling out some of our favourite quotes from interviews past, starting on page nine of this issue with a particularly prescient passage from Matthew McConaughey.

Then there's our new look. This design update goes beyond the fresh new colour palette and meticulously considered font choices from our brilliant creative director Lucinda Wallace. We've added new features, like a super-fun quiz (page 48), and a section about all the live events, documentaries and classic films that screen at Cineplex theatres (page 22), many of which you may not even know about. We've also given more room to some of our favourite features like Art of Film (page 50), our spotlight on visual artists who are inspired by movies. Art of Film used to be in our news section, but it felt kind of squished, so now it has the final page of each issue all to itself.

As for Jay Baruchel, he's the 12th Canadian we've interviewed for a cover

story. Not only is he one of our favourite homegrown actors, he's probably the one most devoted to making his art right here at home. When I spoke with Baruchel about wrapping up the massive *How to Train Your Dragon* trilogy with *The Hidden World* he made it clear that while Hollywood projects will always pull him away for short periods of time this is where he wants to live and do the bulk of his creative work. Or as he put it, "God help me, I want to work in Canadian film and television for the rest of my life." Check out the full interview, "One Final Hiccup?," starting on page 40.

And if you'll indulge me for a moment, I'd like to add a few words of thanks. First, to our deputy editor Ingrid Randoja who, for the past 16 years, has used her profound love of movies to make this magazine exactly 37 times better than it would otherwise be (we have a machine that calibrates these things), then to our aforementioned creative director Lucinda Wallace for her unwavering dedication to making everything look gorgeous, and to our devoted publisher Salah Bachir who, since day one, has shaped and shared our vision of a magazine that's about movies and the people who make them, rather than gossip and celebrity worship.

Also, thanks to you, the nearly 4 million Canadians who read each issue and, in so doing, have made us Canada's most popular entertainment magazine. Keep doing such a great job of reading us!

MARNI WEISZ,
EDITOR



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CLICK!



➤ WHAT AILES CROWE?

Russell Crowe is transformed to play the late Fox News CEO Roger Ailes on the New York set of the upcoming series *The Loudest Voice in the Room*.



↖ SHE HEARD NOTHING

Amber Heard covers her ears, or maybe she's adjusting her headpiece, at the world premiere of *Aquaman* in London, England.

↘ MICHAEL B. IN T.O.

Creed II star **Michael B. Jordan** surprises the kids at Toronto's MLSE Launchpad, a facility for youth facing challenges, as they kick off their new boxing program.





↙ FLEA CAN FLY

Flea shows off his vertical leap at the Directors Guild of America's screening of *Boy Erased*. The Red Hot Chili Peppers' bassist plays a counsellor in the film.



↙ COMPLETING THE CYCLE

Anne Hathaway rides a bicycle on the Manhattan set of her upcoming series *Modern Love*.



↗ HIS MOVE

Chess fan **Woody Harrelson** takes part in the First Move Ceremony at the FIDE World Chess Championship in London.



↗ SUPERHERO SQUEEZE

Aquaman star **Jason Momoa** gives a fan a unique headlock during a meet and greet at London's Forbidden Planet comic book and collectibles store.



SPOTLIGHT

Shaping Glass

How a chance meeting changed the direction of M. Night Shyamalan's stealth trilogy



↑
ABOVE: From left, Samuel L. Jackson, James McAvoy and Bruce Willis in *Glass*
INSET: Director M. Night Shyamalan

FIRST THERE WAS *UNBREAKABLE*, THEN *SPLIT*, now we have *Glass*.

M. Night Shyamalan's stealth trilogy about superheroes and supervillains living among us *sans* capes and tights concludes this month with the finale we didn't know we were expecting until the (surprise, surprise) twist ending of 2016's *Split*.

That film about the deranged Kevin Wendell Crumb (James McAvoy) — a man with 24 distinct personalities and a penchant for kidnapping teen girls — concluded with a cameo from Bruce Willis as David Dunn, the superhuman good guy from 2000's *Unbreakable*, and a reference to Dunn's nemesis, Mr. Glass (Samuel L. Jackson).

Now all three — Dunn, Mr. Glass and Crumb — are locked in an institution under the supervision of skeptical psychiatrist Dr. Ellie Staple (Sarah Paulson). We don't imagine this will go well.

While discussing *Glass* at last year's Comic-Con, the director explained why, in a fascinating real-life twist, without a chance meeting at the same event

a few years earlier the series wouldn't have panned out as it did.

"I came here for *The Visit* and we went to one of these parties here," recalled Shyamalan. "I'd written *Split*, but I didn't know who in the world could play this part."

That's when McAvoy walked by. "I grab him and I go, 'Hey, I love your stuff.' And he's like, 'Hey, I love your stuff.'"

McAvoy had just filmed one of the *X-Men* movies so his head was shaved to play Professor X. "And I was like, 'This is the guy, and this is how he should look in the movie, we shouldn't do wigs, we shouldn't do makeup, he should just do it with expressions,'" remembered Shyamalan.

The filmmaker also revealed that McAvoy's character, now known as The Horde, was in the first draft of the *Unbreakable* script. "But it was too unwieldy, so I pulled him out." —**MW**

Glass opens January 18th.





“I wanted it to be real and authentic, I didn’t want to be showing up and doing a performance so I had to move into a place, and exist in that place, for a period of time that I didn’t like being in – mentally, physically, all of it.”

— NICOLE KIDMAN ON PLAYING A POLICE DETECTIVE BEATEN DOWN BY TRAGEDY IN *DESTROYER*



Adam Devine and Rebel Wilson
in *Isn't It Romantic*

VALENTINE'S DAY PICK

DEVINE COUPLE

Are Rebel Wilson and Adam Devine the new Bogey and Bacall?

Isn't It Romantic stars Wilson as a woman who hates the fakeness of romantic comedies, but who wakes up after being knocked unconscious to realize she's living in one. Devine plays one of her two love interests (the other is Liam Hemsworth).

It's the third time Wilson and Devine have worked together, and the third time their characters have had the hots for each other after an episode of Devine's show *Workaholics*, in which Wilson played an Insane Clown Posse fan who makes out with Devine's Adam DeMamp, and the *Pitch Perfect* films where Wilson's Fat Amy and Devine's Bumper Allen seem to hate each other, but engage in a series of steamy hook-ups. They even won Best Kiss at the 2016 MTV Movie Awards for a sloppy smack in *Pitch Perfect 2*. —**MW**

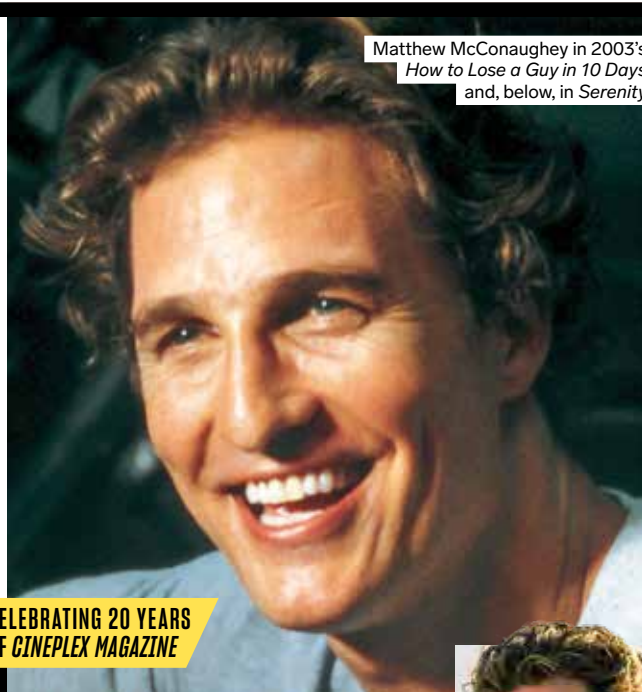
Isn't It Romantic opens February 13th.



A SON OF THE SERKIS

See that kid taking solace in Patrick Stewart's arms in *The Kid Who Would Be King*? It's Louis Ashbourne Serkis, the son of motion-capture pioneer Andy Serkis. Young Serkis plays bullied Alex whose fortunes change when he finds King Arthur's sword, Excalibur. Stewart plays Merlin.

The Kid Who Would Be King opens January 25th.



Matthew McConaughey in 2003's
How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days
and, below, in *Serenity*

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
OF CINEPLEX MAGAZINE

FROM THE ARCHIVES: FEBRUARY 2003

THE LONG ROAD TO SERENITY



As Matthew McConaughey hits theatres in *Serenity*, a film noir about a fishing boat captain caught up in a dangerous scheme, we revisit our interview from February 2003 when his rom-com *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* was released. McConaughey was already coming out of his first self-imposed exile from Hollywood, eight years before his famous McConaissance, a two-year break that was followed by a rich period of dramatic pictures that included *Mud* and *Killer Joe*.

He'd taken a few months off and retreated to his Austin, Texas, home to give things a rethink.

"Sitting out in my backyard and garden finally gave me the time and clarity I had lost," he told us. "I began to look back at the library of work I'd done, and tried to understand exactly why I did everything I had. I basically re-customized myself, for lack of a better word. I thought, 'Maybe I can't tell you exactly what it is I do want and need or exactly what is right or true for me. But I can sure as hell put my finger on what I don't want, what I do disagree with or what goes against my grain.'"

The road to creative fulfilment isn't a straight one, and he'd go on to make more so-so movies, like 2005's *Sahara* and 2006's *Failure to Launch*, before finally giving up on rom-coms, apparently for good, and even winning his first Best Actor Oscar for *Dallas Buyers Club* in 2014.

Serenity opens January 25th.

\$51,200!

LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION!

Forrest Property

Where is this life-sized mannequin of Tom Hanks, clad in a screen-worn costume from *Forrest Gump*, standing right now?

Expected to draw between \$3,000 and \$5,000 (U.S.) in a recent Beverly Hills auction held by Julien's Auctions, the lot ended up bringing in \$51,200 from an anonymous buyer.

Perhaps that buyer wanted to celebrate the film's 25th anniversary, which happens this June. The Best Picture winner about a simple man (Hanks) living an extraordinary life had its L.A. premiere on June 23rd, 1994. —MW



THE CHAT

HART AND CRANSTON TEAR DOWN ASSUMPTIONS

A remake of the French hit *Intouchables*, which was in turn based on a true story, *The Upside* stars Bryan Cranston as a wealthy quadriplegic named Phillip and Kevin Hart as the ex-con Dell hired to be his caregiver. Irreverent and often inappropriate, Dell seems like the least suitable person for job. But that's exactly why Phillip, who's tired of being pitied, chooses him.

GILLIAN BERNER was in New York to chat with Hart and Cranston about their film.



Bryan Cranston (left) and Kevin Hart in *The Upside*

little more, and at least give the attempt of understanding so that things can kind of be smoothed out a little bit and we can hear what both sides are saying rather than not hear and assume, and always pick the worst outcome.

BRYAN CRANSTON

On Phillip and Dell's friendship



Well, I think it's very male. These two characters don't care; don't even want a relationship with each other. It's quite by accident that they come together, and that's very male.

On how Phillip and Dell manage to bond

The way men bond is not by opening up to each other right away, it's through a set of circumstances and that's what's happened in this movie. It feels very authentic and very real, very honest.

On the value of hope

In these trying times to finish a movie that you've laughed and cried through, with hope — that's good. There's tremendous value in hope and I think it's something our society can use right now.

The *Upside* opens January 11th.

KEVIN HART

On what he thinks works about this film

You know, I like the fact that we, in a very clever way, address the fact that sometimes what you assume is not the case at all.

On the assumptions made in the film

Assuming that financial success equals happiness is not right. Assuming that you're white, you're happy, you got it made, isn't always

the case.... Assuming that a black guy that went to jail and did time and got out is a guy that should always be looked at in that manner because what you did is wrong and you're going to keep doing wrong.

On how their characters learn to overcome those assumptions

From conversation and communication and opening up, which is what I feel like we need to do a lot in society today, which is understand a



Spoiler alert.

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SPOTLIGHT CANADA

What's He Thinking?

Jason Jones plays a sports agent whose true thoughts are revealed in the comedy *What Men Want*

JASON JONES ISN'T EXACTLY A TEAM PLAYER IN director Adam Shankman's comedy *What Men Want*, about a sports agent named Ali Davis (Taraji P. Henson) who gains the ability to read men's thoughts. At first, Ali thinks it's a curse, but she soon realizes her new skill allows her to even the playing field with her macho boss and co-workers.

Jones, a Hamilton, Ontario, native who spent 10 years as a correspondent on TV's *The Daily Show*, plays a fellow agent at Ali's agency, and as he explains on the line from New York City, "You think he is on her side, but maybe he's not." Jones rarely acts in movies; he's busy starring in the fourth season of the TV comedy *The Detour*, which he co-writes and produces with wife and late-night TV star Samantha Bee. But going for big-screen laughs opposite Henson was a chance he couldn't pass up.

BIO BITS

HOME TOWN
Hamilton, Ontario

ALMA MATER
Ryerson
University

SELECT FILMOGRAPHY
Goon: Last of the Enforcers,
Pitch Perfect 2,
Rosewater

You play Taraji P. Henson's not-so supportive co-worker. What's it like to work with her?

She's just an absolute professional. It was a pleasure to watch her work and work with her. You know, if she ever messed up a line, she was always apologizing, and it was, "Please stop apologizing, everyone messes up lines." But she just demands perfection from herself at all turns.

Your character gets laughs wearing Invisalign braces.

Right, he's got invisible braces that he thinks everyone can't see, but they can. It really affects his speech because saliva collects in them and it sounds like he's got a lisp every time he talks. And everyone keeps calling him on it and he keeps saying, "I'm not wearing Invisaligns, I don't know what you're talking about."

You earned your stripes in sketch comedy, was there much improvising on the film?

We played around a little. You never know what they're going to use or why. Adam [Shankman] was pretty encouraging of our "make-em-ups."

Is that the official term for improvising?

Yeah, a make-em-up. I'm sure it's in the dictionary.

You're married to Samantha Bee. What PG-rated thought do you think your wife would be most surprised to realize is going through your mind?

What PG-rated thought? That's a really a tough question, if you took the PG part out of it, it would be a very easy question. Oh, how about, I'm not thinking about her as much as she thinks I am thinking about her.

— INGRID RANDOJA

What Men Want opens February 8th

FROM M. NIGHT SHYAMALAN
THE WRITER/DIRECTOR OF *UNBREAKABLE* AND *SPLIT*

JAMES
MCAVOY

BRUCE
WILLIS

SAMUEL L.
JACKSON

GLASS

YOU CANNOT CONTAIN WHAT YOU ARE

JANUARY 18
IN THEATRES AND **IMAX**

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UNIVERSAL

RED CARPET



↑
Leslie Mann
in Culver City,
California, for the
Baby2Baby Gala.

↑
**Channing
Tatum**
in New York for
the WSJ. Magazine
Innovator
Awards.

↑
**Jennifer
Garner**
attends the
Save the Children
Illumination Gala
in New York.

↑
Jared Leto
at the LACMA
Art + Film Gala
in Los Angeles.



↑
Salma Hayek
at the LACMA
Art + Film Gala in
Los Angeles.

↑
Amy Adams
in Culver City,
California, for the
Baby2Baby Gala.

↑
Mahershala Ali
in Hollywood
for a screening
of *Green Book*
at AFI Fest.

↑
**Natalie
Portman**
in Hollywood
for a screening
of *Vox Lux* at
AFI Fest.

IN THEATRES



Samuel L. Jackson
in *Glass*

GLASS

It wasn't until the very end of director **M. Night Shyamalan's** 2016 hit *Split* when we saw **Bruce Willis** pop up as David Dunn, the hero from Shyamalan's 2000 film *Unbreakable*, that we realized the director was uniting his two cinematic worlds. He ties all the pieces together in this third film that sees *Split's* Kevin Wendell Crumb (**James McAvoy**), and his 24 personalities, housed in a psychiatric institution with Dunn and Dunn's archrival, the villainous Mr. Glass (**Samuel L. Jackson**).

→ OPENS JANUARY 18TH



Stan & Ollie's
John C. Reilly (left)
and Steve Coogan

JANUARY 4

Escape Room

Spending an afternoon with friends trying to puzzle your way out of an escape room can be a blast, but in director **Adam Robitel's** (*Insidious: The Last Key*) latest horror the room fights back. Six strangers — **Taylor Russell, Logan Miller, Deborah Ann Woll, Tyler Labine, Jay Ellis** and **Nik Dodani** — are trapped in a series of deadly escape rooms that test the group's smarts.

JANUARY 11

The Upside

This remake of the hit 2011 French film *Intouchables* stars **Bryan Cranston** as depressed billionaire quadriplegic Phillip who goes with his gut and hires Dell (**Kevin Hart**), a recently paroled ex-con to act as his caregiver, and the unlikely pair forms a deep bond. Based on the real-life story of Philippe Pozzo di Borgo.

A Dog's Way Home

This heartwarming tale finds medical student Lucas (**Jonah Hauer-King**) adopting a stray puppy he names Bella (voiced by **Bryce Dallas Howard**). When a grown-up Bella runs away and gets lost, she embarks on a 400-mile journey back home.

JANUARY 18

Glass

See spotlight box.

Stan & Ollie

It's 1953 and silent-film comedy duo Stan Laurel (**Steve Coogan**) and Oliver Hardy (**John C. Reilly**) embark on a stage tour through the U.K. Their long friendship is tested when small crowds and Hardy's poor health puts a damper on the trip.

JANUARY 25

The Kid Who Would Be King

Bullied, 12-year-old Alex (**Louis Ashbourne Serkis**) pulls the sword Excalibur from a rubbish pile only to realize that he, like King Arthur, must assemble a round table of knights to stop the evil witch Morgana (**Rebecca Ferguson**) from returning to the world to wreak havoc.

Serenity

Oscar-winning co-stars **Matthew McConaughey** and **Anne Hathaway** turn up the heat in this sexy film noir thriller that casts McConaughey as Baker Dill, a fishing boat captain who is approached by his ex-wife Karen (Hathaway) to kill her abusive new husband (**Jason Clarke**). But is Karen being completely honest with Baker?

Destroyer

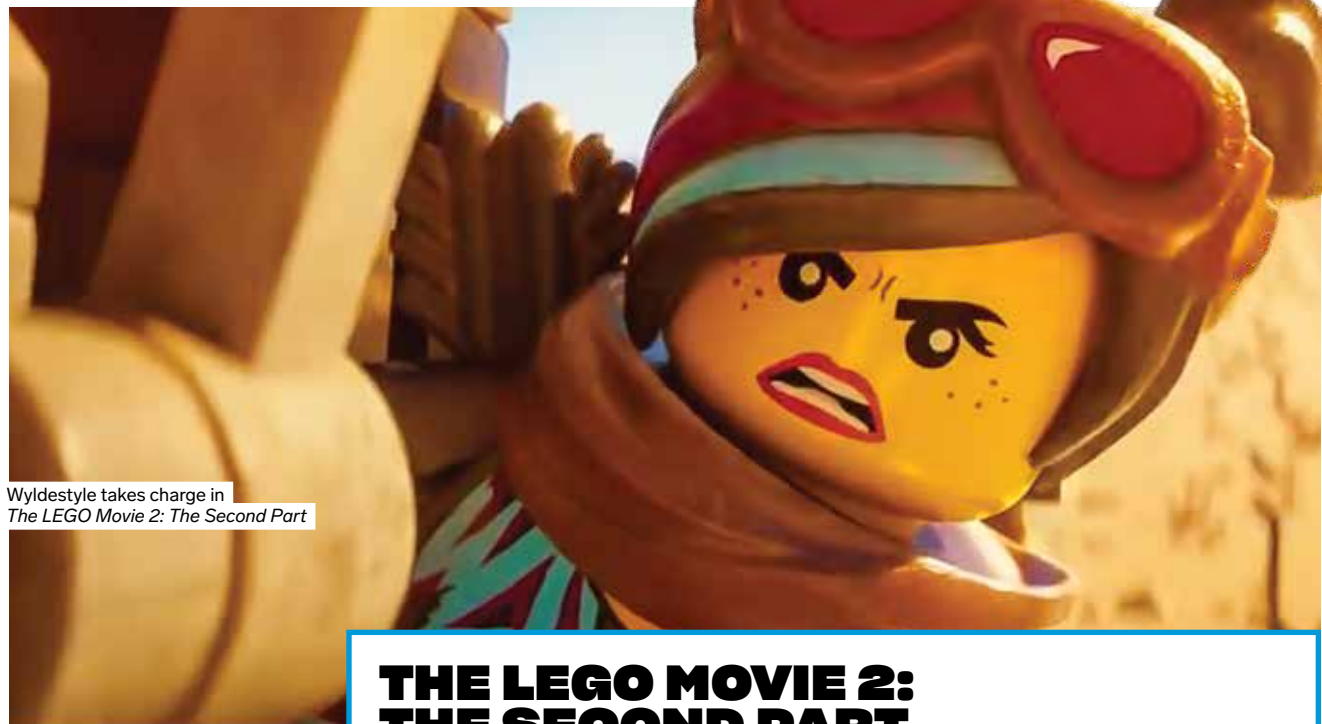
Nicole Kidman is earning rave reviews for her turn as emotionally spent L.A. detective Erin Bell, who spent her early career working undercover hunting down crime boss Silas (**Toby Kebbell**). The job cost her dearly, and years later she has the chance to get revenge against those who derailed her life.

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Manuscript accepted 12 July 2009





Wyldstyle takes charge in *The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part*

THE LEGO MOVIE 2: THE SECOND PART

The LEGO Movie (2014) and its sly, wink-wink humour reveled in poking fun at superheroes while also celebrating the power of imagination. This sequel, set five years after the first film, sees Wyldstyle (**Elizabeth Banks**), Batman (**Will Arnett**), Unikitty (**Alison Brie**) and Metal Beard (**Nick Offerman**) kidnapped by General Sweet Mayhem (**Stephanie Beatriz**) and taken to the Sistar System. It's up to the still average, but always enthusiastic, Emmet (**Chris Pratt**) to save them.

→ SEE FEATURE, PAGE 24. OPENS FEBRUARY 8TH

FEBRUARY 1

Miss Bala

Catherine Hardwicke (*Twilight*) directs this action pic starring **Gina Rodriguez** as L.A. makeup artist Gloria, who is forced to work for a Mexican drug cartel. When the DEA gets hold of Gloria, she is sent back to infiltrate the cartel and must find a way to appease the feds and the bad guys in order to escape her predicament.

Wonders of the Sea 3D

Arnold Schwarzenegger narrates this 3D documentary co-directed by famed ocean diver **Jean-Michel Cousteau** that gives audiences a breathtaking look at the creatures that live in our oceans.

FEBRUARY 8

What Men Want

This redo of the 2000 movie *What Women Want*, which starred Mel Gibson as a man who could hear women's thoughts, flips the script and casts **Taraji P. Henson** as Ali, a female sports agent who suddenly finds she can hear what men

are thinking. Co-starring **Tracy Morgan**, **Max Greenfield**, **Erykah Badu** and **Jason Jones**.

→ SEE JASON JONES INTERVIEW, PAGE 12.

The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part

See spotlight box.

Cold Pursuit

Liam Neeson bundles up to once again take revenge against those who have wronged him and his family. Neeson plays snowplow driver Nels Coxman, whose son is killed by a drug cartel boss named Viking (**Tom Bateman**). Using his unique skills, he sets out to eliminate Viking and his entire crew. Co-starring **Laura Dern** as Nels' wife.



Miss Bala's Gina Rodriguez



FROM PRODUCERS
JAMES CAMERON JON LANDAU

AND DIRECTOR
ROBERT RODRIGUEZ

ALITA

BATTLE ANGEL

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX PRESENTS A LIGHTSTORM ENTERTAINMENT / TROUBLEMAKER STUDIOS PRODUCTION
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BASED UPON THE GRAPHIC NOVEL "MANGA" SERIES "GUNN" BY YUKITO KISHIRO SCREENPLAY BY JAMES CAMERON & LAETA KALOGRIDIS DIRECTED BY ROBERT RODRIGUEZ

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#Alita
AlitaBattleAngel.com

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19

FEBRUARY 14



Alita: Battle Angel

ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL

Robert Rodriguez directs this futuristic tale that sees a discarded female cyborg named Alita (a CGI character played by **Rosa Salazar** in a motion-capture suit) rebuilt by Dr. Dyson Ido (**Christoph Waltz**). Alita has no memory but using her superior fighting skills she sets out to discover the truth about her past.

→ SEE ROBERT RODRIGUEZ INTERVIEW, PAGE 28.
OPENS FEBRUARY 14TH

FEBRUARY 13

Isn't It Romantic

Enjoy Valentine's Day with this insightful comedy starring **Rebel Wilson** as an architect who suffers a blow to her head and wakes up to discover she's living in a rom-com universe ruled by the clichés of the genre, including residing in a stunning apartment, having a funny, gay sidekick (**Brandon Scott Jones**) and getting involved with a gorgeous guy (**Liam Hemsworth**).



Rebel Wilson and Liam Hemsworth in *Isn't It Romantic*

FEBRUARY 14

Alita: Battle Angel

See spotlight box.

Happy Death Day 2U

Two years after Tree Gelbman (**Jessica Rothe**) survived a trip through a time loop that saw her solve her own murder, she once again finds herself reliving the same day over and over again. She has to figure out why this keeps happening to her while fending off the vengeful Lori (**Ruby Modine**), who tormented her in the first film.

How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World's villain, Grimmel



FEBRUARY 22

The Rhythm Section

The first book in author **Mark Burnell's** Stephanie Patrick spy series comes to the screen with **Blake Lively** portraying Patrick, a woman whose family is killed in an airplane crash. She spirals into a life of drugs and prostitution until one of her clients reveals terrorists are responsible for the crash and she becomes a government assassin and master of disguise looking to find those responsible. Co-starring **Jude Law** and **Sterling K. Brown**.

How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World

This third film in the popular animated series sees Hiccup (**Jay Baruchel**) ruling over

the kingdom of Berk while his dragon Toothless is beguiled by an elusive female dragon, but their peaceful existence is shattered when the evil Grimmel (**F. Murray Abraham**) threatens to capture all of Berk's dragons. Hiccup must find the dragon home world and enlist the help of the mighty beasts to fend off the attack. → SEE JAY BARUCHEL INTERVIEW, PAGE 40.

The Turning

Henry James' 19th-century ghost story *The Turn of the Screw* gets a modern-day adaptation starring **Mackenzie Davis** as a nanny hired to look after two orphans (**Finn Wolfhard**, **Brooklyn Prince**) in a haunted country mansion. **Floria Sigismundi** directs with **Steven Spielberg** serving as producer.

How much of your life would you trade for a week of your dreams?

We're chasing some definition of a "best life" we're not even sure exists.
A lot of us.

Striving for #goals that were never ours in the first place.
Trying to tick things off our bucket list, to the point that it feels more like a to-do list. Convincing ourselves the fast track to happiness is a flight halfway around the world.

But who dies wishing they'd gone to more all-inclusives?
What if what makes us truly happy is closer than we think?

Spending all night trading stories while you pick away at leftovers. Laughing so hard you can't even chew, at a joke you can't believe you've never heard. Squeezing more chairs around the table than it was ever built for, then making room for two more. Being there, in the moment, knowing there's nowhere else you'd rather be.

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SPECIAL SCREENINGS



THE METROPOLITAN OPERA

↑
Clémentine Margaine
as Carmen

Met Carmen?

One of opera's most complicated and feisty females takes centre stage in this live presentation of ***Carmen*** from New York's Metropolitan Opera

EVEN THE MOST OPERA-SHY AMONG US WILL recognize the most memorable melodies from Georges Bizet's opera *Carmen*, including the Habanera and Toreador arias. A favourite with the Metropolitan Opera — it has been staged more than 1,000 times at the Met dating all the way back to its premiere in 1884 — the story, set in Seville during the Spanish Civil War in this production, revolves around haughty gypsy Carmen, who falls for soldier Don José only to reject him for dashing bullfighter Escamillo. French mezzo-soprano Clémentine Margaine

and her smoky voice bring life to Carmen, French tenor Roberto Alagna is Don José and Russian bass Alexander Vinogradov steps into the role of Escamillo. This live screening revives English director Sir Richard Eyre's powerful 2009 production that *The New York Times* called "gripping" with a finale that mingles "sex, rebellion and violence." —IR

Carmen screens live in HD as part of Cineplex's Metropolitan Opera series on Saturday, February 2nd.

CONDUCTOR
Louis Langrée

STARS
Clémentine Margaine, Roberto Alagna, Alexander Vinogradov

HISTORY
Georges Bizet died three months after Carmen's premiere at age 36 due to a heart condition



Go to [Cineplex.com/Events](https://www.cineplex.com/Events) for times, locations and to buy tickets

“I just couldn’t help myself. The gates were open and the hills were beckoning and everything was so green and fresh.”

—JULIE ANDREWS AS MARIA IN *THE SOUND OF MUSIC*

CINEPLEX EVENTS

CONCERT FILMS

Andre Rieu 2019

New Year's Concert from Sydney

Tues., Jan. 1 to Sun., Jan. 6;
Thurs., Jan. 10;
Wed., Jan. 16

FLASHBACK FILM SERIES

Smokey and the Bandit

Fri., Jan. 4 to
Thurs., Jan. 10

Superman (1978)

Fri., Jan. 18 to
Thurs., Jan. 24

The Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

Fri., Feb. 1 to Thurs., Feb. 7

Being John Malkovich

Fri., Feb. 15 to
Thurs., Feb. 21

MET OPERA

La Fanciulla del West (Puccini)

Encores: Sat., Jan. 5;
Mon., Jan. 7; Wed., Jan. 9;
Sun., Jan. 20

Adriana Lecouvreur (Cilea)

Live: Sat., Jan. 12
Encores: Sat., Feb. 23;
Mon., Feb. 25;
Wed., Feb. 27

Marnie (Muhly)

Encores: Sat., Jan. 26;
Mon., Jan. 28; Wed.,
Jan. 30; Sun., Feb. 17

Carmen (Bizet)

Live: Sat., Feb. 2

La Traviata (Verdi)

Encores: Sat., Feb. 9;
Mon., Feb. 11;
Wed., Feb. 13

NFL SUNDAY NIGHTS FOOTBALL @VIP

Divisional Round

Sun., Jan. 13

AFC & NFC

Conference Finals

Sun., Jan. 20

Pro Bowl

Sun., Jan. 27

Super Bowl LIII

Sun., Feb. 3

GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

Degas: Passion for Perfection

Mon., Jan. 14

Water Lilies by Monet: The Magic of Water and Light

Tues., Jan. 8; Fri., Jan. 11;
Wed., Jan. 16; Mon., Jan. 21

Young Picasso

Sun., Feb. 24;
Wed., Feb. 27

PASSPORT TO THE WORLD

The Great North: From Greenland to Siberia

Mon., Jan. 14

Hong Kong: From East and West

Mon., Feb. 18

ANIME

Dragon Ball

Wed., Jan. 16;
Thurs., Jan. 17

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE

Antony and Cleopatra

Sat., Jan. 19

The Tragedy of King Richard the Second

Sat., Feb. 16;
Thurs., Feb. 21

BOLSHOI BALLET

La Bayadère

Live: Sun., Jan. 20

EVENTS IN VIP

Bring It On

Mon., Jan. 21

Romeo + Juliet

Mon., Feb. 11

CLASSIC FILMS

The Sound of Music

Wed., Jan. 23; Sun.,
Jan. 27; Wed., Jan. 30;
Sat., Feb. 2; Sun., Feb. 3

Gone with the Wind

Sun., Feb. 10; Tues.,
Feb. 12; Wed., Feb. 20;
Sat., Feb. 23

CONCERT FILM

BTS Love Yourself Tour in Seoul

Sat., Jan. 26



VIP SCREENING

ROMEO + JULIET

Look at those baby faces. That's a 21-year-old Leonardo DiCaprio and a 16-year-old Claire Danes in 1996 in director Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo + Juliet*. The modern, frenetic take on Shakespeare's classic tale was seen as a risky bet for Fox Studios, but when DiCaprio paid his own way to Australia to shoot teaser footage with Luhrmann the studio bankrolled the pic, which went on to become a box-office hit with audiences swooning over the attractive actors and taking notice of up-and-coming director Luhrmann.

→ [FEBRUARY 11](#)



GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

YOUNG PICASSO

Famed artist Pablo Picasso's early years are the subject of this Exhibition on Screen presentation that covers Picasso's childhood growing up in Malaga, Spain, and his moves to Barcelona and then Paris, where he established himself as a groundbreaking artist. The film explores works from both his Blue Period and Rose Period, which led to his first monumental painting, *Les Femmes d'Alger*, completed in 1907. → [FEBRUARY 24, 27](#)

BUILDING SOMETHING NEW

Everything was awesome at San Diego's Comic-Con last year as the cast and crew of *The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part* teased their big sequel. Stars **Chris Pratt** (voice of Emmet) and **Elizabeth Banks** (Wyldstyle) joined animation director **Trisha Gum** and the team of **Phil Lord** and **Christopher Miller**, who produced and co-wrote the screenplay for this film after having directed 2014's *The LEGO Movie*. The big danger in this new movie comes from LEGO DUPLO invaders from outer space, who threaten to destroy absolutely everything. Here's what else we found out. **BY MARNI WEISZ**

→ THE LEGO MOVIE 2: THE SECOND PART OPENS **FEBRUARY 8TH**



WHERE WE PICK UP

Co-writer Chris Miller explained: **"It's five years later and the war between the aliens and the Birckburgians has gone on and now Bricksburg has become Apocalypseburg and is a heckish place to live."** Miller's reference to Apocalypseburg makes sense considering all the allusions to *Mad Max: Fury Road* (above, right) in the trailer for *The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part*.

WHO'S FINN AGAIN?

Phil Lord gave the crowd this teaser: **"We wanted...to tell the story about combining two different imaginations, and it seems like maybe Finn's sister is involved in this one, and that is like going to a completely different universe."** Finn was the little boy in the live-action ending of *The LEGO Movie* who, we discovered, had orchestrated the story we'd just watched by breaking the rules and playing with his dad's (Will Ferrell) meticulously constructed LEGO world in their basement.





←
Wyldestyle (voiced by Elizabeth Banks) and Emmet (Chris Pratt) in the new movie

→
Elizabeth Banks poses with her Wyldestyle mini-figure at Comic-Con. "I wish I was much more like her," said Banks. "She's sassy AF and she's real great at building things."



LIFE IMITATES BRICKS

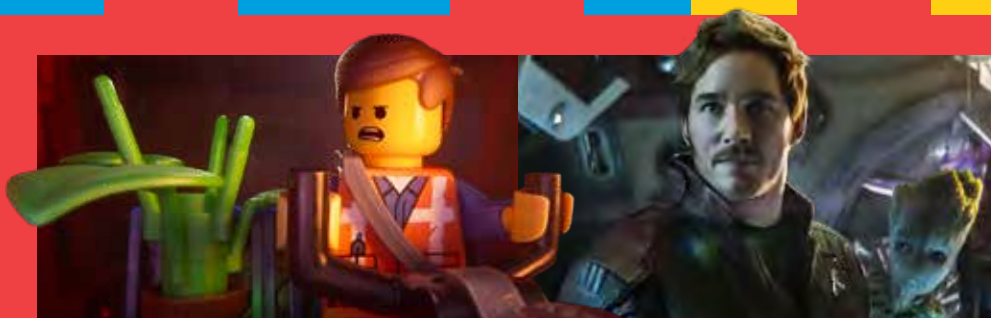
When asked how much of himself there is in Emmet Brickowski, Chris Pratt didn't refer to personality traits, but life experiences: **"Oh my gosh, so much more than just my voice. If you look at the timeline of when we shot *The LEGO Movie*, when I first was given the role I was playing [regular guy] Andy on *Parks and Recreation* [pictured left] and Emmet starts the film as this sort of painfully ordinary fellow who's given this extraordinary opportunity. And by the time we'd finished our recording sessions I was Star-Lord and so that arc, it was one of those moments, I'm sure you have these, where you think, 'Oh my life is a computer simulation and I'm living in the Matrix.'"**

EXPANDING UNIVERSE

Animation director Trisha Gum said to expect the unexpected as our heroes head into space: **"What's been fun about designing this new world is we blast off out of the basement into the Sistar system, as we're calling it, and it's just been rich with ideas and new characters...talking ice cream cones and bananas."**

PASSING THROUGH

When Elizabeth Banks thinks of childhood experiences with LEGO, it's not playing that comes to mind: **"My LEGO story is my dog ate a LEGO when I was little and then we had to take him to the hospital and there was a whole going through his poo situation."**



LEGO WORLDS COLLIDE

Rex Dangervest, a space-travelling, dinosaur-wrangling archeologist who is also voiced by Pratt in the new film, is a riff on other Pratt characters — *Guardians of the Galaxy*'s Star-Lord and *Jurassic World*'s Owen Grady, both of whom have their own LEGO mini-figs, by the way.

One more inside joke. In the film's trailer we see Emmet piloting an aircraft while telling his sidekick, a shrub, "Hold onto your fronds, Planty," a reference to *Guardians of the Galaxy*'s tree-creature Groot, who's seen top right with Pratt's Star-Lord.





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Battle Plan

It took two great filmmakers to bring ***Alita: Battle Angel*** to life. Here director **Robert Rodriguez** explains why he was more than happy to yield to his friend James Cameron's vision in creating this groundbreaking sci-fi

BY JULIDE TANRIVERDI



ver the past 25 years director Robert Rodriguez has often visited his friend James Cameron on sets.

The filmmakers showed each other early material, even planned to direct something together. One day, Rodriguez asked Cameron about the status of *Battle Angel Alita*, Cameron's passion project based on Yukito Kishiro's manga series.

Cameron finally had to admit that after working on the project for well over a decade he didn't have time to finish it between his four *Avatar* sequels. He showed Rodriguez the work he'd already done and even gave him the script in which Alita, an amnesiac girl cyborg, is discovered in a trash heap by a doctor looking for parts.

Which is why this February we get *Alita: Battle Angel*, a live action-CGI hybrid from director Robert Rodriguez, co-written and produced by James Cameron. In a motion-capture performance, Rosa Salazar plays Alita, who wakes up in a dangerous world where she has to fight to survive. Christoph Waltz is Dr. Dyson Ido, the doctor who finds her, and Keanu Johnson is Alita's pal, Hugo.

We spoke with bad-boy Austin filmmaker Rodriguez in Los Angeles, where he explained what it means to take on a massive James Cameron movie.

You got a 180-page script and 600 pages of notes from James Cameron. How did you condense that into a two-hour movie?

Only 600 pages of notes? There were a thousand!

What could possibly be in there?

I know. That was what I was thinking. What could possibly be in there? But it was really amazing to see how somebody builds a franchise. How he builds it. He doesn't just write one story; he already has to figure out what would be the story after, what would be the story before....

And it's not like notes like we take; it's like a book. There's a whole set of pages on, like, one chapter is just on the Christoph character, on Alita, on the cyborg, on what it means to be a cyborg, on the city, on the upper city, on the first movie, on the second movie, on the possible third movie.... Jim is an engineer by trade, and that's just how he thinks. So it's not like a normal — a creative person is sometimes not very organized, a creative person can usually be very not methodical. He's the opposite, he's both. And that's why he is so powerful.

How did you approach this mammoth project?

I've known Jim for 25 years, I've studied his work, we've been friends a long time, [so] I looked at the script and I thought, I need to cut out all the things that are not that important to the story and then leave all the things that are important to Jim. I know him enough that it's like, he's not going to care so much about this, he is going to care about the father-daughter relationship, he is going to care about the Hugo relationship. None of the movie works if the story about the characters doesn't work.

Was he on the set or did he let you do your thing?

He really wanted me to make it my own movie, but I made him understand that I really wanted to make a Jim Cameron film because I didn't really want to take *Alita* and turn it into a Robert Rodriguez movie. I wanted to honour the style that he wrote it in, which is very different than what I do. I do stuff, usually because of both my taste, I started as a cartoonist, and also because I usually have much less money to work with, I have to be more whimsical. My stuff is usually science-fiction, not science fact, because I can't afford fact. So if someone picks up a guitar case and fires a missile from it, that's enough for me. I don't have to know that it can really work or not. Jim, that doesn't fly with Jim. That has to be able to work.

↑
Robert Rodriguez (right) works with James Cameron on the set of *Alita: Battle Angel*

IN PERSON

Here's the real Rosa Salazar, who plays Alita in a motion-capture performance. You may have seen her in *Insurgent*, *CHIPS* and the *Maze Runner* movies.





“My stuff is usually science-fiction, not science fact, because I can’t afford fact”



How close is the film to Yukito Kishiro's manga?

The manga is many, many volumes. So Jim read all the manga, for instance he liked one of the villains and the father-daughter relationship of the first book, he liked the boy that she meets in the second book, he liked Motorball from the fourth book. And he figured out a way to put all that stuff together and add new twists to the story and levels of meaning that were very Jim Cameron.

You're a filmmaker who loves doing everything himself — filming, editing, writing, the soundtrack, sometimes even the catering. Isn't it weird to do it Cameron-style?

It is. It's very weird.... I liked doing all those other jobs. But this one, it wasn't difficult to make the leap at all 'cause you're surrounded by fantastic people. The problem is when you hire people in those jobs and you're better than them you'd rather do the job yourself. Well, here I was able to use a lot of Jim's guys and people that he's worked with that are just super-fantastic in photography and editing, and all the different positions.... I feel like an audience member a lot of times 'cause I've seen some of these images for the first time as the effects guys do them and go like, 'Wow! When did we shoot that? That's amazing! It didn't look like that when we shot it [laughs]!'

You're probably the director who has worked with the largest budget range in Hollywood — lowest at \$7,000 (U.S.) for 1992's *El Mariachi* and now \$200-million for *Alita*. What did you learn and what's the budget of your next film?

I've already made my next film. I'm just finishing it right now. I'm going to enter it into Sundance. It's less than \$7,000. Feature film.

What? Are you serious?

It was supposed to be \$7,000 but it came in under. It was the 25th anniversary of *El Mariachi* so I made a new film with my kids to celebrate it, and with no crew, just my son on boom...shot in 14 days in Austin. And we had a documentary crew film it to show how to make a movie, write it, shoot it, direct it, edit, cut it, score it yourself, with no money. It's going to be awesome.... Creativity is very malleable you know, you can do it on a very small scale and make something that looks big, or you can do it on a big scale and make something that looks huge. It's fun! 🎬

Julide Tanriverdi is a New York-based freelance writer and producer.

→ **ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL OPENS FEBRUARY 14TH**

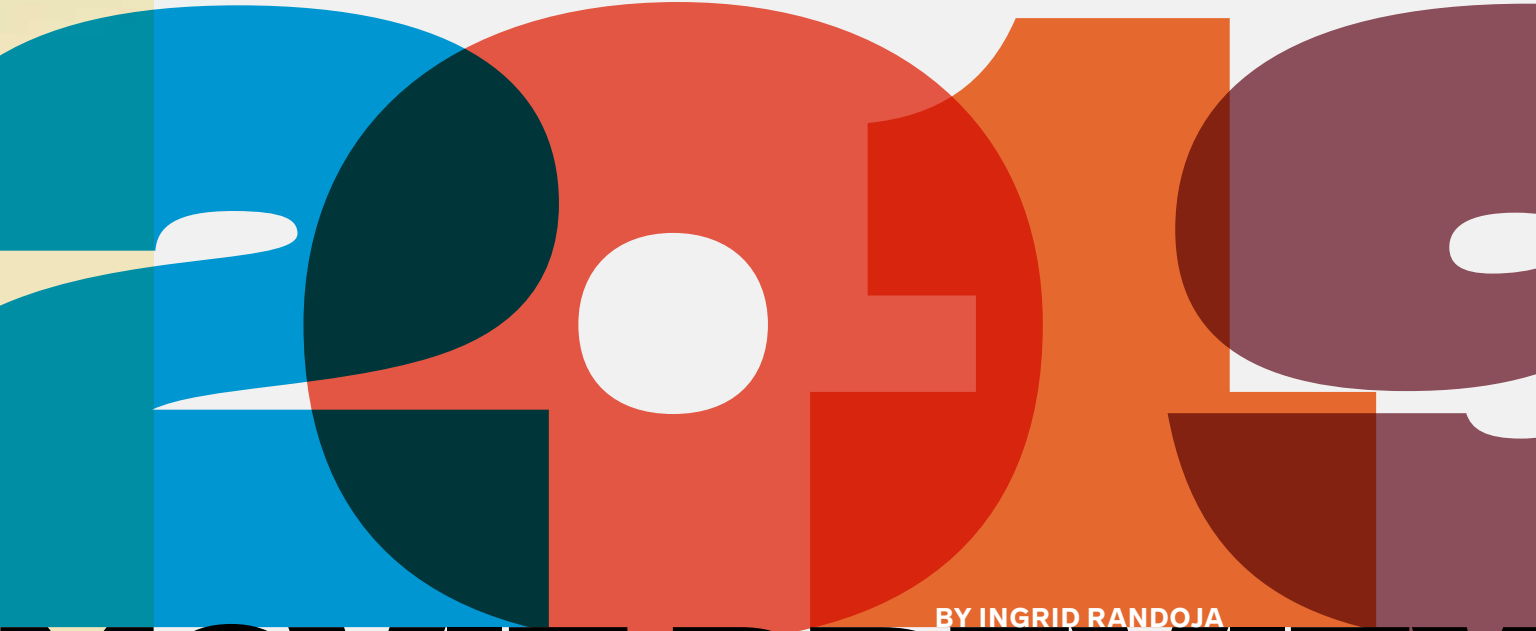
↑
Rosa Salazar (and a lot of CGI) as Alita and Keanu Johnson as Hugo



ORIGIN STORY

Filmmaker Guillermo del Toro was the one who introduced James Cameron to the *Battle Angel Alita* manga back in 1999.

10 FILMS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS YEAR



BY INGRID RANDOJA

MOVIE PREVIEW

Captain Marvel

STARRING
Brie Larson,
Jude Law,
Samuel L. Jackson
DIRECTED BY
Anna Boden
and Ryan Fleck
(*Mississippi Grind*)
RELEASE DATE
March 8th

SPOILER ALERT — THE MARVEL Cinematic Universe is on life support (not the franchise, which is doing great, but the universe itself). The end of *Avengers: Infinity War* was a cinematic gut punch as we witnessed many of our beloved superheroes, including Star-Lord, Black Panther, Spider-Man and Groot, disintegrate before our eyes when baddie Thanos enacted his plan to wipe out half of all life in the universe.

But there was a glimmer of hope when Nick Fury (before his demise) sent out a mysterious signal for

help. We now know that signal was meant for Captain Marvel, who has remained hidden in the superhero realm. But before she can join the fight against Thanos we need to spend some time getting to know her.

Set in the 1990s, *Captain Marvel* stars Brie Larson as Carol Danvers, an Air Force pilot who is genetically joined with alien Mar-Vell (Jude Law) and inherits superpowers. A youngish S.H.I.E.L.D. leader Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) recruits Danvers, whom he'll need when a war between alien species comes to Earth.



SINCE THE FILM IS SET IN THE 1990S, SAMUEL L. JACKSON AND GREGG CLARK — WHO PORTRAY S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS FURY AND COULSON RESPECTIVELY — WERE DIGITALLY “DE-AGED” TO APPEAR YOUNGER



Captain Marvel's
Brie Larson



Josh Brolin's Thanos, seen here in 2018's *Avengers: Infinity War*, returns for the fourth film

Avengers: Endgame

STARRING Chris Evans, Josh Brolin, Chris Hemsworth
DIRECTED BY Anthony Russo, Joe Russo
(Avengers: Infinity War)
RELEASE DATE April 26th

WHEN PRODUCER KEVIN FEIGE envisioned the Marvel Cinematic Universe more than a decade ago, he was confident he could do something that had never been done before in Hollywood — entice big stars to play comic book characters, have them share screen time and cross over into one another's films. The *Avengers* franchise became the gold standard for the MCU (earning nearly \$5-billion U.S. worldwide) and it all comes to a climax with the fourth film that picks up after the events of *Infinity War*.

While the plot is still a big secret, we suspect there are some superheroes who hold the key to altering the timeline and preventing Thanos's (Josh Brolin) mass eradication. Does salvation lie with Doctor Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch), who foresaw a single way (out of 14,000,605 possibilities) to defeat the evil Thanos, or with Ant-Man (Paul Rudd) who was trapped in the Quantum Realm? Either way, prepare to shed a tear or two for the superheroes whose journeys end here.



9

NUMBER OF MARVEL FILMS IN WHICH CHRIS EVANS HAS PLAYED CAPTAIN AMERICA

TOY STORY 4

VOICED BY Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Annie Potts **DIRECTED BY** Josh Cooley (debut)
RELEASE DATE June 21st

The *Toy Story* movies have featured one of cinema's greatest bromances — the relationship between lovable cowboy Woody (Tom Hanks) and lovably pompous astronaut Buzz Lightyear (Tim Allen). However, the franchise has given less attention to the female members of its toy world, so it's refreshing that this fourth film will give a shout-out to the overlooked Bo Peep (Annie Potts), who was noticeably absent from *Toy Story 3*. This movie finds Woody, who has romantic feelings for Bo Peep, and Buzz heading out in search of the missing doll, who was sold at a yard sale.

The gang in *Toy Story 4*





The Lion King's baby Simba

THE LION KING

VOICED BY Donald Glover, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Beyoncé Knowles
DIRECTED BY Jon Favreau (*Jungle Book*)
RELEASE DATE **July 19th**

Director Jon Favreau's 2016 remake of Disney's 1994 cartoon *The Lion King* was a revelation, using cutting-edge CGI in tandem with live-action scenes to breathe life into a classic tale. Now Disney and Favreau reteam using the same formula to reimagine 1994's *The Lion King*, the crown jewel of the studio's animated library. An all-star cast voices the CGI-created characters, including Donald Glover as Simba, the young lion cub who must battle his evil uncle Scar to regain his rightful title of king. Chiwetel Ejiofor voices Scar, Beyoncé is Nala, Simba's love interest, Billy Eichner and Seth Rogen are the comic meerkats Timon and Pumbaa, and James Earl Jones voices Simba's father Mufasa, just as he did in the original film.



Brad Pitt (left) and Leonardo DiCaprio in *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*

ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD

STARRING Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie
DIRECTED BY Quentin Tarantino (*The Hateful Eight*)
RELEASE DATE **July 26th**

Writer and director Quentin Tarantino grew up in L.A. and was seven years old in 1969 when pregnant actor Sharon Tate was brutally murdered by Charles Manson and his followers. That event serves as a focal point in Tarantino's latest, which casts Leonardo DiCaprio as washed-up TV Western star Rick Dalton and Brad Pitt as his stunt double, Cliff Booth, both trying to restart their careers in swinging sixties Hollywood. The rest of the A-list cast includes Margot Robbie as Sharon Tate, Damian Lewis as Steve McQueen, Al Pacino as Rick's agent and Dakota Fanning and Lena Dunham as Manson followers Squeaky Fromme and Catherine Share respectively.



Pennywise, seen here in *It*, returns for the sequel

IT: CHAPTER TWO

STARRING Jessica Chastain, James McAvoy, Bill Skarsgård
DIRECTED BY Andy Muschietti (*It*) **RELEASE DATE** September 6th

Big-screen adaptations of Stephen King novels rarely storm the box office, but when *It* hit screens in September 2017 moviegoers came out in droves to see terrifying evil entity Pennywise (Bill Skarsgård) torment a group of kids in small-town U.S.A. (though the film was shot in Southern Ontario). Set in the 1980s the film was part horror, part homage to childhood friendships and a shout-out to the decade. The sequel is set 27 years later and finds the adult Bill (James McAvoy), Bev (Jessica Chastain) and Richie (Bill Hader) returning to their hometown of Derry to join with the rest of the grown-up Losers' Club to finally put an end to Pennywise.



Michelle Dockery (left) and Laura Carmichael in the TV show

DOWNTON ABBEY: THE MOVIE

STARRING Michelle Dockery, Hugh Bonneville, Maggie Smith
DIRECTED BY Michael Engler (*The Chaperone*)
RELEASE DATE September 20th

Think of the *Downton Abbey* movie as a cinematic palate cleanser between servings of superheroes, space cowboys and animated princesses. The popular TV series ended in 2015 with love all around as the aristocratic Crawley daughters Mary (Michelle Dockery) and Edith (Laura Carmichael) settled down with husbands and babies, while members of Downton's loyal staff, including butler Mr. Carson (Jim Carter), housekeeper Mrs. Hughes (Phyllis Logan), Mr. Bates (Brendan Coyle) and Mrs. Bates (Joanne Froggatt), were left to serve their benevolent employers. The film's plot details are being kept under wraps, but series mastermind Julian Fellowes promises one epic story that allows each of the 22 series regulars their chance to shine.



Joaquin Phoenix as Joker's Arthur Fleck

JOKER

STARRING Joaquin Phoenix, Robert De Niro
DIRECTED BY Todd Phillips (*The Hangover*)
RELEASE DATE October 4th

Batman and his nemesis the Joker are joined at the hip, both debuting in the very first issue (April 25th, 1940) of the Batman comic book. So, it's surprising we are only now getting a Joker origin tale. Joaquin Phoenix portrays Arthur Fleck, a failed 1980s comedian who loses his mind and transforms into the Gotham City supervillain. Director Todd Phillips calls the film a "gritty character study" and a "cautionary tale." De Niro is rumoured to play a late-night TV talk show host, Zazie Beetz is a single mom who catches Arthur's eye and Brett Cullen will play Thomas Wayne (Bruce Wayne's dad).



BILL FINGER, ONE OF THE CO-CREATORS OF THE JOKER, SAID HE BASED THE VILLAIN ON THE DISFIGURED CHARACTER GWYNPLAINE FROM THE 1928 FILM *THE MAN WHO LAUGHS*.



 DREAMWORKS

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR
DRAGON
THE HIDDEN WORLD

FEBRUARY 22

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Elsa in *Frozen*

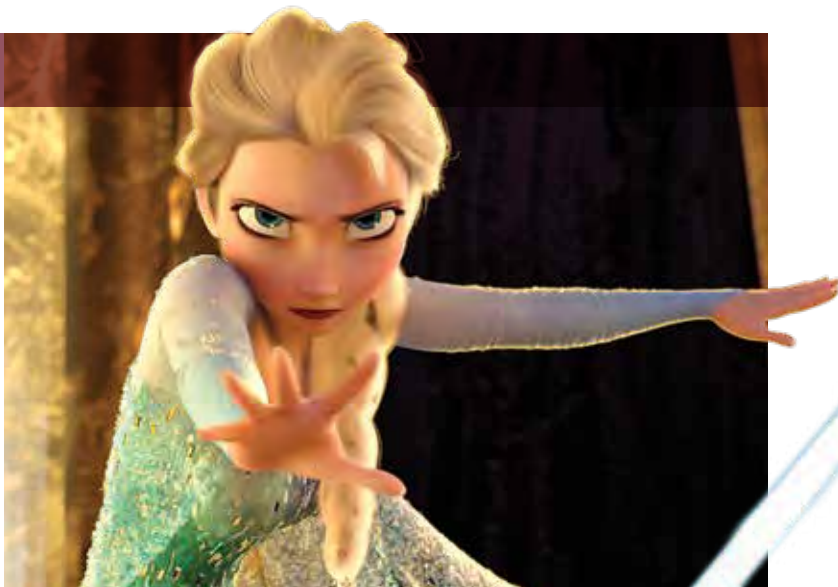
FROZEN 2

VOICED BY Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel, Josh Gad

DIRECTED BY Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee (*Frozen*)

RELEASE DATE November 22nd

Expect droves of pint-sized Elsas and Annas to take their rightful places in theatres this November as the hotly anticipated sequel to *Frozen* hits screens. We're not sure what new queen Elsa (Idina Menzel), her rambunctious sister Anna (Kristen Bell) or Olaf the snowman (Josh Gad) are up to in the kingdom of Arendelle, but we can tell you that Sterling K. Brown and Evan Rachel Wood have joined the cast in unspecified roles.



Daisy Ridley, seen here in *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, returns for *Episode IX*. Below, Mark Hamill in the first film



1977
YEAR THE
ORIGINAL
STAR WARS
WAS RELEASED

\$307 MILLION
EARNINGS (U.S.)
AT THE BOX
OFFICE IN THE
U.S. AND CANADA

\$1.3 BILLION
EARNINGS
WHEN ADJUSTED
FOR TODAY'S
DOLLARS

Star Wars: Episode IX

STARRING

Daisy Ridley,
Adam Driver,
John Boyega

DIRECTED BY

J.J. Abrams (*Star Wars: The Force Awakens*)

RELEASE DATE

December 20th

IT'S COME DOWN TO THIS. ONE final movie to wrap up a nine-film, 40-year cinematic journey that not only changed the face of Hollywood, but people's lives. We're hoping this grand goodbye will not only tie up loose threads and answer questions — are Rey's (Daisy Ridley) parents really "nobodies"? — but allow us to say farewell to our favourite characters. Expect to see the late

Carrie Fisher back as General Leia (her performance will be cut together with unused footage from 2017's *The Last Jedi*), Luke (Mark Hamill), rumoured to appear as a "Force Ghost," and perhaps even legendary baddie Darth Vader, whose spirit may be able to talk some sense into grandson Kylo Ren (Adam Driver), who's become the leader of the First Order.



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ONE FINAL HICCUP?

As the popular *How to Train Your Dragon* trilogy comes to an end with *The Hidden World*, actor **Jay Baruchel** reflects on voicing Hiccup the Viking, an unlikely role that's been the cornerstone of his career for nearly a decade, and looks ahead to the next chapter, which involves doubling down on the Canadian film industry

BY MARNI WEISZ

“HOLY. OH MY GOSH. WELL, LET ME THINK.”
Jay Baruchel is doing the math, trying to figure out how many times he's voiced Hiccup, the Viking hero of the *How to Train Your Dragon* franchise, over the past decade.

“Every movie I probably do about half a dozen to a dozen recording sessions, and then for the TV show it's once an episode, so 12 times three, 24 plus 10, so 36, yeah, it's gotta be...”

He trails off.

“We gotta be in the, like, between a hundred and 200 range. Probably even more than that.”

The Ottawa-born, Montreal-raised, surprisingly proud Torontonion (more on that later) is looking back on one of the most unexpected roles of his career — voicing Hiccup, the young Viking who turns from dragon hunter to dragon friend after injuring a Night Fury dragon named Toothless.

He's sitting in his room at Winnipeg's Fort Garry hotel having just arrived in the Peg on a promotional tour for *Born Into It: A Fan's Life*, his memoir about being a sports fanatic. It's no coincidence that Baruchel's first two big-screen writing credits came with the *Goon* hockey films. The sequel, *Goon: Last of the Enforcers*, also marked his feature-film directing debut.

Outside, the city is covered with the season's first snowfall and, as Baruchel says in his adorably nasal voice, “It's cold as f---.” →



Jay Baruchel, in the flesh and with his animated counterpart, Hiccup



→ **CONSIDERING HOW MANY DRAGON MOVIES AND** shows he's done, it's a good thing Baruchel, now 36, can record the majority of Hiccup's voice work from anywhere in the world. Though Hiccup lives on the Viking island of Berk, most of his lines for this third movie were performed in a Toronto studio at King and Spadina with Baruchel's director, fellow Canadian Dean DeBlois, on Skype.

"I open the door and I go up an elevator and nobody out there knows I'm in the process of recording words for one of the most anticipated movies ever," Baruchel says. The first two films alone have earned more than a billion dollars worldwide.

The franchise that began with 2010's *How to Train Your Dragon*, continued with 2014's *How to Train Your Dragon 2* and concludes with this February's *How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World* has also produced two TV series, a handful of short films and a videogame — most of which not only featured Baruchel's voice but the voices of his famous co-stars like Gerard Butler as his dad Stoick the Vast (who dies in the second film, leaving Hiccup in charge of Berk) and America Ferrera as Hiccup's ladyfriend, Astrid.

Although Baruchel can't guarantee this will be the final film, he does say, "It certainly feels like there's a finality to it because the TV show is done as well, and that this is part three of what was always going to be a three-parter if people liked them."

As the third film begins life is nearly perfect on Berk. Hiccup's in charge, and even Toothless finds love with a female dragon of the same species. But when the villainous Grimmel the Grisly (F. Murray Abraham) threatens to capture all of Berk's dragons and destroy the idyllic Viking-dragon lifestyle, Hiccup and Toothless need to find the legendary hidden dragon home world.

"They wear their hearts on their sleeves these films, and that means us never shying away from delving into emotional stuff. We often go sadder than *Bambi*," says Baruchel. "You know, I get my leg taken off in the first one and my dad dies in the second.... But it's not sad for the sake of sad, right? The movies are incredibly emotional without being the slightest bit manipulative."

IT'S ALMOST CLICHÉ TO SAY BARUCHEL IS A PROUD Canadian. The man who has a maple leaf tattooed over his heart has always refused to move to New York or L.A., first buying a house in his beloved Notre-Dame-de-Grâce neighbourhood of Montreal and then, a few years ago, moving to Toronto's Beach area. "I love it there," he says. "Toronto's a really good town and I had, you know, really not spent enough time there to judge it fairly."

“They wear their hearts on their sleeves these films, and that means us never shying away from delving into the emotional stuff”

Jay Baruchel's Hiccup bonds with his dragon, Toothless.
INSET: Hiccup with Astrid, voiced by America Ferrera



He made the unthinkable move when the politics and brutal cold of Montreal became too much for him. Or as he puts it, "I had a mini epiphany that I didn't want to deal with the stuff in Montreal that I didn't like anymore."

He's still a Habs fan.

Baruchel lives with his fiancée, model Rebecca-Jo Dunham, their cat Tulip and two Papillon puppies, Bean and Teddy. "Like Mr. Bean and teddy bear," he explains. "They're brothers from the same litter."

When asked whether there's any crossover between training a dragon and training a Papillon, he says, "I don't seem to remember as many Toothless pooping all over the place scenes as I have experienced with the Papillons at our house."

REMEMBER THESE ROLES?

Nine of the best Jay Baruchel performances



2001-2003
Steven Karp,
Undeclared

2004
Million Dollar Baby,
Million Dollar Baby

2007
Jay, *Knocked Up*

2008
Kevin Sandusky,
Tropic Thunder



Apparently, Hiccup has some Canadian blood in him too. While taking part in a panel discussion at last year's Toronto International Film Festival, Baruchel revealed, "When I first got this job I was like, I'm gonna make Hiccup sound as hoser as I possibly can without getting in trouble."

Asked to expand on that, he says, "Everything from terminology, vocabulary, intonation and just paying less attention to trying to sound American. There's always these telltale words that give away Canadians working on American stuff.... 'Tomorrow' is one of them, 'sorry' is another one."

And there's the fact that Hiccup often calls Toothless "Bud."

"There are precious few more Canadian terms of endearment than Bud," says Baruchel. "That's something very kind of ours."

Even one thing nitpickers may see as a flub, the fact that Hiccup sounds Canadian while his dad Stoick has Butler's Scottish accent, is something Baruchel claims is by design.

"In Canada, I know my experience, and a lot of people's experience, was a lot of teachers or friends' parents were from Scotland. There's just a big connection between the two countries and I know that Dean, our writer-director who grew up in Aylmer, Quebec, he said the whole reason why he gave the grown-ups that very distinct accent and had us all talk the way that we talk was

that was his recollection of growing up on his block, all the kids were Canadian like him, but all the parents were from elsewhere."

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT BARUCHEL'S CAREER NOW THAT the *Dragon* trilogy is done, don't be. He's right where he wants to be, directing his first horror film.

Random Acts of Violence is based on the graphic novel by Jimmy Palmiotti and Justin Gray and stars Jesse Williams as comic book writer Todd, Jordana Brewster as Todd's girlfriend Kathy and Baruchel as their friend Ezra, all of whom are on a road trip to New York Comic-Con that gets bloody.

It was shot in Toronto this past summer and should be out sometime in the next year.

"God help me, I want to work in Canadian film and television for the rest of my life," says Baruchel, "and the vast majority of my ideas are in English and so few better places to be if that's the case than Toronto." 📺

Marni Weisz is the editor of Cineplex Magazine.

→ **HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD**
OPENS **FEBRUARY 22ND**



2010
Kirk, *She's Out of My League*

2010
Dave, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*

2011
Pat, *Goon*

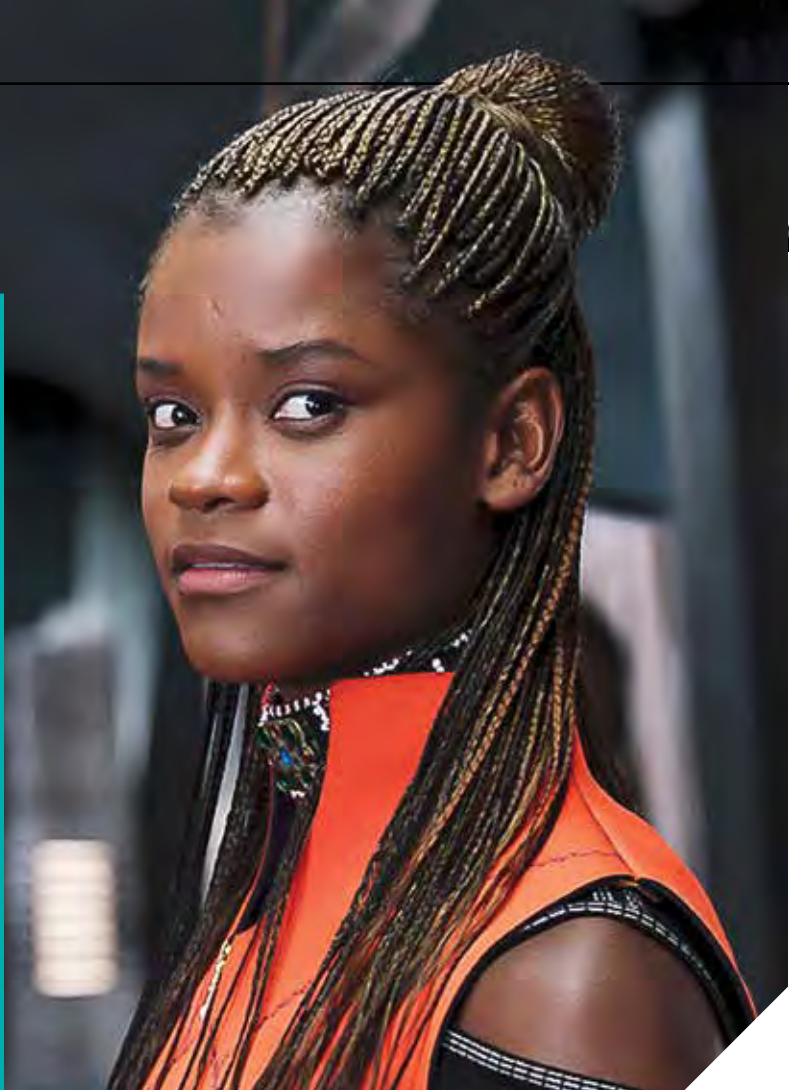
2013
Jay Baruchel, *This Is the End*

2014
Tom Pope, *RoboCop*

IN THE WORKS

WRIGHT BLASTS OFF

Letitia Wright charmed *Black Panther* viewers with her turn as Shuri, T'Challa's brainy, energetic sister. The British-Guyanese actor continues to take on adventurous roles having just been cast opposite **John Boyega** in the sci-fi romance *Hold Back the Stars*. The plot revolves around two lovers who are left drifting in space after an accident destroys their ship. They have only 90 minutes of oxygen left and must find a way to survive. **Mike Cahill** (*Another Earth*) directs the film, which is described as “*Romeo & Juliet* meets *Gravity*.”



FERRELL RUNS AWAY

Swedish director **Ruben Östlund**'s acclaimed dramedy *Force Majeure* is getting a Hollywood remake starring **Will Ferrell** and **Julia Louis-Dreyfus**. Directors **Jim Rash** and **Nat Faxon** (*The Way Way Back*) helm the film that finds a man (Ferrell) running away from his wife (Louis-Dreyfus) and kids to save himself from an approaching avalanche. The avalanche causes no physical harm but does damage the couple's relationship as she questions his actions.



66 It's gonna happen five or six years afterwards, so almost in 1990. It's gonna be a new movie, a different tone. You'll see a lot of the East Coast of America – they're going to go around the world."

— DIRECTOR **LUCA GUADAGNINO** ON HIS IDEA FOR THE *CALL ME BY YOUR NAME* SEQUEL, WHICH WOULD SEE **OLIVER** (ARMIE HAMMER) AND **ELIO** (TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET) REUNITE



Hunnam Off the Grid

Waldo casts **Charlie Hunnam** as a former LAPD detective who has retreated from life to live a minimalist existence in the woods. However, when

a TV star's wife is murdered, he is coerced back to the big city to search for her killer. **Mel Gibson** and **Eiza González** co-star, with **Tim Kirkby** (*Action Point*) behind the camera.



Janney Has Skills

We'll see a tougher side of **Allison Janney** in the upcoming thriller *Lou*.

Directed by **Anna Foerster** (TV's *Outlander*), the film casts

the Oscar-winning actor as Lou, a landlady who helps a female tenant find her daughter, who has been kidnapped by the woman's ex-partner. And it seems Lou has a surprising number of mysterious, high-level skills that come in handy for the job.



Keaton Gets Paranoid

Michael Keaton replaces **Johnny Depp** in *King of the Jungle*, based on *Wired* magazine writer **Ari Furman**'s account of heading

into the jungles of Belize to interview John McAfee, the software millionaire whose paranoid and violent behaviour made him a suspect in the murder of his neighbour, Gregory Faull. Keaton will portray McAfee, **Seth Rogen** is Furman and **Glenn Ficarra** and **John Requa** (*I Love You, Phillip Morris*) direct.



Swinton Hears the Music

Tilda Swinton is the first star to board frequent collaborator **Wes Anderson**'s latest pic, a musical set in post-World War II France. The untitled film will be

Anderson's 10th, and although he is a master of using music in his movies, this will be his first full-fledged musical. Word is Anderson is also looking to cast **Brad Pitt** and **Léa Seydoux**. —IR



ON HOME TURF

GREENLAND



Neill Blomkamp

Production on *Greenland*, a tense thriller from South African-Canadian filmmaker **Neill Blomkamp** and starring **Chris Evans**, should finally get

underway in Toronto mid-January, with shooting expected to last into March.

Blomkamp's fourth feature film (after *District 9*, *Elysium* and *Chappie*) will star Evans as a man who has to get his family to Greenland, the safest place on Earth, during some sort of catastrophe.

This is Blomkamp's first feature not based on one of his own stories. The script was written by *Buried* scribe **Chris Sparling**.



Chris Evans

ROLE CALL

→ **Geena Davis** will play **Jessica Chastain**'s mom in *Eve*, which casts Chastain as an assassin on the run.

→ Look for **Ewan McGregor** as villain Black Mask in the female superhero pic *Birds of Prey* (And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn).

→ **Chris Pratt** is circling the role of thief and master of disguise Simon Templar in the reboot of *The Saint*.

→ The Sopranos prequel film, *The Many Saints of Newark*, casts **Alessandro Nivola** as Dickey Moltisanti, Tony Soprano's uncle.

FRESH FACE

TAYLOR RUSSELL



Vancouver native Taylor Russell uses her smarts to survive in January's horror/thriller *Escape Room*. Playing brainy characters is a

trend for the 24-year-old actor, she can also be seen as wise teenaged doctor Judy Robinson in Netflix's *Lost in Space*. Look for her later this year in the teen romance *Waves* and the indie drama *Dr. Bird's Advice for Sad Poets*.



A STAR IS BORN

Bradley Cooper took a big risk by choosing to star in, sing in, and make his directorial debut with *A Star is Born*, and his faith in himself paid off as he's crafted a masterful film. Cooper plays Jackson Maine, a depressed, drug-addicted country star falling in love with a talented young singer (**Lady Gaga**). Throw in a head-turning dramatic performance by Gaga and you have an instant classic.

→ RENT IT **JANUARY 8**



Venom

→ RENT IT **JANUARY 8**

While some critics gave *Venom* poisonous reviews, audiences connected with the frightful Marvel antihero played by the always watchable **Tom Hardy**. Hardy portrays journalist Eddie Brock, who becomes the human host to an alien creature, and together they merge into the terrifying Venom.



First Man

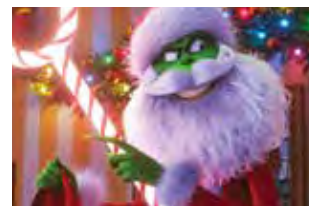
→ BUY IT **JANUARY 8**
→ RENT IT **JANUARY 22**

Ryan Gosling gives an astounding performance, both humble and heroic, as astronaut Neil Armstrong in director Damien Chazelle's poetic ode to America's space program. **Claire Foy** also shines as Armstrong's steadfast wife, Janet. Sadly, the real Janet Armstrong died a few months before the film was released.

Nobody's Fool

→ BUY IT **JANUARY 22**
→ RENT IT **FEBRUARY 5**

Tiffany Haddish is in her element as Tanya, a woman who is released from prison and reunites with her successful sister Danica (**Tika Sumpter**). But savvy Tanya suspects Danica's seemingly perfect online boyfriend is catfishing her sister and sets out to reveal his identity.



Dr. Seuss' The Grinch

→ BUY IT **JANUARY 22**
→ RENT IT **FEBRUARY 5**

Benedict Cumberbatch proves his versatility by voicing everyone's favourite Christmas curmudgeon the Grinch in this first full-length, animated version of Dr. Seuss's holiday tale. Listen for **Pharrell Williams** as the narrator.



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WHICH FILM?

As we careen toward the **Academy Awards** (February 24th) – with stops at the **Golden Globes** (January 6th), **Critics' Choice Awards** (January 13th), **Screen Actors Guild Awards** (January 27th) and **BAFTAs** (February 10th) along the way – it's time to challenge your knowledge of 2018's top movies

1. Which film featured Sterling K. Brown as the antagonist's father?

- a) *The Hate U Give*
- b) *Black Panther*
- c) *Incredibles 2*
- d) *Widows*

2. Which film won the People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival?

- a) *Green Book*
- b) *If Beale Street Could Talk*
- c) *A Star is Born*
- d) *Halloween*

3. Which film was the fourth cinematic version of a story first told in 1937?

- a) *A Quiet Place*
- b) *The Favourite*
- c) *A Star is Born*
- d) *BlacKkKlansman*

4. Which film's star and director worked together on 2015's *The Big Short*, both earning Oscar nominations for that pic?

- a) *First Man*
- b) *Searching*
- c) *BlacKkKlansman*
- d) *Vice*

5. Which film based on a true story was written by the son of one of its protagonists?

- a) *Green Book*
- b) *First Man*
- c) *The Old Man & the Gun*
- d) *Can You Ever Forgive Me?*

6. Which film tells the story of Anne, Abigail and Sarah?

- a) *Widows*
- b) *Roma*
- c) *The Favourite*
- d) *On the Basis of Sex*

7. Which film's two stars were both nominated for Best Actress at last year's Academy Awards?

- a) *Colette*
- b) *Mary Queen of Scots*
- c) *Widows*
- d) *The Favourite*

8. Which film, though a period piece, ended with an actual event that happened in 2017?

- a) *BlacKkKlansman*
- b) *The Favourite*
- c) *Colette*
- d) *Three Identical Strangers*

9. Which film was based on a 1980s British TV miniseries?

- a) *If Beale Street Could Talk*
- b) *Widows*
- c) *Mary Queen of Scots*
- d) *Leave No Trace*

10. Which animated film was directed by Wes Anderson?

- a) *Incredibles 2*
- b) *Ralph Breaks the Internet*
- c) *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*
- d) *Isle of Dogs*

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← James Dean



↑ Audrey Hepburn

Marlon Brando ↓



Fluid identities

Artist Paul Lovering admits that watercolours aren't the easiest medium to work with when trying to capture an actor's likeness. Based in Edinburgh, Scotland, he says getting the eyes right is the most important part, followed by the nostrils and mouth. "My success rate is about seven out of 10, which I'm pleased with," he says. "Sometimes I need the odd glass of wine to be bolder and more free and expressive. I often capture something and then am not brave enough to continue in case I ruin the image. And, even though portraits end up in the waste bin, at least I have learned from it all." —MW

To see more go to paul-lovering.pixels.com



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